

# OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

*Edited by*

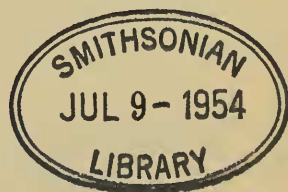
**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**

Secretary to the Commission

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## OPINION 239

Designation, under the Plenary Powers, of type species for the nominal genera *Podura* Linnaeus, 1758, and *Tomocerus* Nicolet, [1842] (Class Insecta, Order Collembola) in harmony with accustomed nomenclatorial usage



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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

## COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 239

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*Vice-President* : Dr. James L. Peters (*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*).

*Secretary* : Mr. Francis Hemming, C.M.G., C.B.E. (*London, England*).

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Dr. Norman R. STOLL (*Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A.*).

### C. Alternate Members of the Commission at the Session held in Paris in 1948

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Mr. N. D. RILEY (*British Museum (Natural History), London, England*).

Professor Ragnar SPÄRCK (*Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*).

Professor Victor van STRAELEN (*Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles, Belgium*).

Professor Robert L. USINGER (*University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.*).

## OPINION 239

DESIGNATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF TYPE SPECIES FOR THE NOMINAL GENERA "PODURA" LINNAEUS, 1758, AND "TOMOCERUS" NICOLET, [1842] (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER COLLEMBOLA) IN HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED NOMENCLATORIAL USAGE

**RULING** :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers all type selections for the under-mentioned genera made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside and the following species are designated to be the type species of those genera :—(a) *Podura aquatica* Linnaeus, 1758, to be the type species of the genus *Podura* Linnaeus, 1758 ; (b) *Macrotoma minor* Lubbock, 1862, to be the type species of the genus *Tomocerus* Nicolet, [1842].

(2) The entry in the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* of the generic name *Podura* Linnaeus, 1758, made in accordance with the directions given in *Opinion* 104, is hereby confirmed, subject to the substitution, as regards its type species, of the species so designated under the Plenary Powers in (1)(a) above.

(3) The generic name *Tomocerus* Nicolet, [1842] (gender of name : masculine) with the type species designated under the Plenary Powers in (1)(b) above, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 667.

(4) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Names Nos. 57 and 58 :—(a) *aquatica* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Podura aquatica* ; (b) *minor* Lubbock, 1862, as published in the combination *Macrotoma minor*.

## I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The problem dealt with in the present *Opinion* came to notice from three different sources : first, Mr. Francis Hemming, Secretary to the Commission, while preparing the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* for publication in book form, observed the equivocal and apparently contradictory entry made in regard to this name in *Opinion* 104, in which it was placed upon the *Official List* ; second, Dr. Hermann Gisin (*Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle; Genève*) submitted a formal application for the use by the Commission of its Plenary Powers in order to give valid force to the current use of the generic name *Podura* Linnaeus, 1758, and of the name *Tomocerus* Nicolet, [1842] ; third, Dr. Jiří Paclt (then of the *National Museum, Prague, Czechoslovakia*) submitted an application covering, in general, the same ground as Dr. Gisin's application. The documents so submitted are given in the immediately following paragraphs.

2. *Note dated 9th February 1944 by Mr. Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission* : On 9th February 1944 the following note was placed on the File Z.N.(G.) 15, in which papers relating to the proposed publication of the *Official List* in book form were at that time registered :—

**“ Podura ” Linnaeus, 1758 (“ Opinion ” 104)**

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.  
(*Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*)

When last year I started to examine the older *Opinions* of the Commission with the object of extracting from them the particulars regarding the generic names already placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* which will be needed when the *Official List* is published in book form, I was immediately struck by the unsatisfactory nature of the entry regarding the name *Podura* Linnaeus, 1758 made in *Opinion* 104 (*Smithson. misc. Coll.* 73 (No. 5) : 27), for in that entry *Podura plumbea* Linnaeus, 1758, is given as the type species but an ambiguous reference is then made to *Podura aquatica* Linnaeus, 1758, the species currently accepted as typifying the genus *Podura*. On my consulting Mr. N. D. Riley he replied on 28th November 1943 enclosing a statement which included the following :—“ Throughout the literature, no doubt, *Podura* has been conceived of, in the light of *aquatica* L. ”.

It is evident from the information furnished by Mr. Riley that there is something seriously wrong with the entry made in the *Official List* in regard to the name *Podura* Linnaeus. A comprehensive application will need to be submitted to the Commission directly it is possible, in consultation with specialists in the group, to determine what action is required.

3. *Application submitted by Dr. Hermann Gisin (Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève, Switzerland)*: Before any further action had been taken in this case a letter dated 27th November 1945 was received from Dr. Hermann Gisin (*Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève*) outlining a proposal for submission to the International Commission in regard to this case. After an exchange of letters with the Secretary, Dr. Gisin on 9th January 1946 submitted for the consideration of the International Commission a formal application which was then given the Registered No. Z.N.(S.) 199. The following is an extract from this application :—

**Need for suspension of rules in four cases of generic names in the Order  
Collembola (Insecta Apterygota)**

By HERMANN GISIN  
(*Muséum d'Histoire naturelle, Geneva, Switzerland*)

*Podura Tomocerus*

Since its publication by Nicolet, [1842], the name *Tomocerus* is in universal use to designate a well defined, most common genus ; we have good reason to establish this name as firmly as possible in the current acceptation, notwithstanding any other consideration.

Unfortunately, both species—*plumbeus* Lin. and *celer* Nic.—included by Nicolet, [1842], in his new genus, are *nomina dubia*. They are considered as such by all modern systematists ; all we can say is that they belong to the genus *Tomocerus* (subgenus *Pogonognathus* Börner). Now, *Opinion* 104 (generic names placed in the *Official List*) quotes *Podura plumbea* Lin. as type species of *Podura* Lin. (confirming the first designation by Latreille, 1802, *Hist. Crust. Ins.* 3 : 72). On that ground, we should have to transfer *Podura* to *Tomocerus*, an unacceptable result to entomologists generally. In the whole enormous literature, *Podura* is restricted to a monotypic genus with the very common species *aquatica* Lin.

In order to conserve, in a most practical manner, the current status, established by generations of workers, the International Commission



on Zoological Nomenclature is respectfully requested to recommend the following :

(a) Under suspension of Rules

- (i) to set aside all existing type designations for *Podura* Linnaeus, 1758, and *Tomocerus* Nicolet, [1842].
- (ii) to designate *Podura aquatica* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) : 609 as type of *Podura* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibidem*.
- (iii) to designate *Macrotoma minor* Lubbock, 1862, *Trans. Linn. Soc.* 23 : 598 as type of *Tomocerus* Nicolet, [1842], *N.D. allg. schweiz. Ges.* 6 (3) : 67.

(b) To change accordingly the type designation for *Podura* Lin. in the *Official List*.

(c) To place *Tomocerus* Nic. on the *Official List* with type as above.

4. *Application submitted by Dr. Jiří Paclt (then of the National Museum, Prague, Czechoslovakia)* : In a letter dated 21st May 1946, Dr. Jiří Paclt (then of the *National Museum, Prague, Czechoslovakia*) indicated his desire to submit an application in regard to the present case. This application, which was received on 18th August 1946, was as follows :—

**Proposal that under suspension of the Rules the genotype of “*Podura*” Linné, 1758 (Class Insecta, Order Collembola) should be fixed as “*P. aquatica*” Linné**

By JIRI PACLT  
(*National Museum, Prague, Czechoslovakia*)

In 1758 Linnaeus founded the genus *Podura*, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 608, including in it some species from which Latreille, 1802, *Hist. nat. d'Ins.* 3 : 71, being the first author to select a type, specified *plumbea* Linnaeus (: 608). Later, Latreille (1806, *Gen. Ins.* 1 : 165, 1810, *Consid. gén.* : 423) reaffirmed *plumbea* as the type of *Podura*. Without regard to the latter type selection (1810, *Table des genres*) the species *plumbea* was the only one belonging to the genus *Podura* in the above mentioned works by Latreille. The next author to make a genotype was Tullberg, 1871, *Ofv. Ak. Förh.* 28 : 153, who chose *Podura aquatica* Linnaeus (: 609). With one exception (C. Börner), this choice was followed by all Collembologists. Also Apstein accepted in a list of *Nomina conservanda* (*SB. Ges. naturf. Fr. Berlin* 1915 : 152) the species *aquatica* as genotype while the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in *Opinion* 104 (published 1928 in *Smithson. misc. Coll.* 73 : 27) interpreted the genus *Podura* in the sense of Latreille, monotypically with *plumbea* as type.

I am of the opinion that it would be highly undesirable to disturb the use of the name *Podura* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 608, for *Podura aquatica* Linnaeus, 1758, having regard to the fact :

- (i) that that name has been almost universally applied to the species *aquatica* Linnaeus since 1871 ;
- (ii) that the strict application of the Rules would transpose the name *Podura* to *Podura plumbea* Linnaeus, which is quite unidentifiable today and may be placed in another family of Collembola than *P. aquatica* Linnaeus.
- (iii) that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (: 26) when it decided upon the present genotype alteration, believed that this could not influence the position of the genus cited.

For the reasons given above, I consider that a change on the ground of Latreille's selection would produce a state of confusion, and consequently I ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to cancel the fixation of *Podura plumbea* Linnaeus by Latreille as the type of that genus.

## II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

5. In 1946 Dr. Gisin arranged for the publication of a short note on his proposals in regard to this and certain other generic names in the Order Collembola for the purpose of calling attention to the issues involved and of eliciting comments on the action proposed (Gisin, 1946, *Mitt. schweiz. ent. Ges.* 20 (1) : 135—136). The note so published bore the title "Sur la nomenclature de quelques genres importants de Collembolés".

6. *Issue of Public Notices* : On 14th November 1947 a notice of the possible use, by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, of its Plenary Powers in the present case was issued to the serial publications prescribed by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology, Monaco, 1913.

7. The publication of the foregoing notice elicited a comment dated 23rd March 1948 from Dr. Harlow B. Mills (*Chief, State Natural History Survey Division, Department of Registration and Education, State of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, U.S.A.*). The

following is an extract from Dr. Mills' letter dealing with the present case, the remainder of the letter being concerned with Dr. Gisin's other applications regarding the names of genera in the Order Collembola of which notice had been given at the same time as that in regard to the name *Podura* Linnaeus :—

“*Podura*” Linnaeus, with the type “*Podura aquatica*” Linnaeus  
and “*Tomocerus*” Nicolet, with the type “*Tomocerus minor*”  
(Lubbock)

While the suggestion may run counter to at least one previous ruling of the Commission and possibly to the best reasoning in the absence of actual type specimens, I am very much in favor of the suspension of the Rules to allow the use of the generic names *Podura* and *Tomocerus* as indicated by the types suggested. There has been approximately a century of usage of these generic names in this sense and a reshuffling of the names now would needlessly confuse the great body of literature which relates to these genera.

8. *Support received from Mr. Maynard (University of Rochester, Rochester, N. Y., U.S.A.)* : The following is an extract from a letter dated 17th November 1947 from Dr. Gisin, the first of the two applicants of this case, giving particulars of the support offered for his proposals in regard to this and certain other generic names in the Order Collembola by Mr. Maynard (*University of Rochester, Rochester, N. Y., U.S.A.*) :—

Voici une opinion qui vous intéresse. Je l'ai reçue spontanément de la part du seul Collembologiste Américain actuellement actif, Mr. Maynard, de l'Université de Rochester :—“ I think there is considerable justification for the reasoning which you follow with regard to the nomenclature as pointed out in your 1946 paper. I have reached the same conclusions and even in the case of *Hypogastrura* it will give me pleasure to be the first of the American workers to make the change from *Achorutes* ”.

### III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

9. The applications in the present case were considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the



Fourteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 2030 hours. The following is an extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission, setting out the decision reached by it in this case at the foregoing meeting (Paris Session, 14th Meeting, Conclusion 30) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 504—507) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

(1) to use their Plenary Powers :—

(a) to set aside all selections of a type species for the undermentioned genera of the Order Collembola (Class Insecta), made prior to the present decision :—

(i) *Podura* Linnaeus, 1758

(ii) *Tomocerus* Nicolet, [1842] ;

(b) to designate the undermentioned species to be the type species of the genera specified in (1) above :—

(i) *Podura aquatica* Linnaeus, 1758, to be the type species of the genus *Podura* Linnaeus, 1758 ;

(ii) *Macrotoma minor* Lubbock, 1862, to be the type species of the genus *Tomocerus* Nicolet, [1842] ;

(2) to confirm the entry on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* of the generic name *Podura* Linnaeus, 1758, subject to the substitution, as its type species, of the species specified in (1) (b) (i) above and of the insertion of a note that this species had been designated as the type species of this genus by the Commission under their Plenary Powers ;

(3) to place the generic name *Tomocerus* Nicolet, [1842] (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers : *Macrotoma minor* Lubbock, 1862) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* ;

- (4) to place the undermentioned trivial names on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :—

*aquatica* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Podura aquatica*)  
*minor* Lubbock, 1862 (as published in the binominal combination *Macrotoma minor*) ;

- (5) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) to (4) above.

10. *Date to be assigned to the generic name Tomocerus Nicolet* :  
 In view of the fact that Dr. Gisin allotted the date "1842" to the name *Tomocerus* Nicolet, while in Neave's *Nomenclator* (1940, *Nomencl. zool.* 4 : 506) the date adopted for this name is "1841", Mr. Hemming, when preparing the present *Opinion*, judged it advisable to investigate the evidence available on the question of the date of publication of the foregoing name. Mr. Hemming accordingly approached Miss Therersa Clay, the specialist in charge of the Collembola collection in the British Museum (Natural History), London for advice on this subject. From the evidence kindly furnished by Miss Clay in her reply of 22nd December 1953 it may be concluded that the paper by Nicolet containing the name *Tomocerus*, though apparently dated "1841", was not published until "1842". Accordingly, the latter date has been accepted in the present *Opinion*, that date being cited in square brackets in accordance with the decision taken by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 225—226). The following is the text of Miss Clay's letter :—

As far as I can see the reference given by Gisin is the correct one. Neave's reference is to the title of the paper only : "Recherches pour servir à l'Histoire des Podurelles" ; the date he gives, 1841, may be due to the fact that volume VI is included at the end of V and the whole labelled 1841 (in the B.M. library). His page number, 31, is to the first reference of the name *Tomocerus*, but there are no included species on this page, merely a short diagnosis ; the page number given by Gisin, 67, gives a longer description of the genus and is

followed by the names and description of two species to be included in the genus. If Neave's reference is correct it would mean that Nicolet's paper had been published as a separate publication in the previous year ; I can find no trace of this.

11. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the decision set out in the immediately preceding paragraph :—

*aquatica*, *Podura*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 609  
*minor*, *Macrotoma*, Lubbock, 1862, *Trans. linn. Soc. Lond.* (Zool.)  
 23 : 598  
*Podura* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 608  
*Tomocerus Nicolet*, [1842], *Neue Denkschr. Allgem. schweiz. Ges.*  
 6 : 31, 67

12. The gender of the generic name *Tomocerus* Nicolet, [1842], referred to in the decision quoted in paragraph 9 above, is masculine.

13. The decision taken in the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Sixth Meeting held on 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 116).

14. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

15. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

16. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

17. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

18. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion Two Hundred and Thirty-Nine* (239) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London this Eleventh day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING